

REMARKS

Claim 1 is now pending in the application. Claims 2-6 have been cancelled from the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to address the Examiner's concern, thereby overcoming the rejection.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Liu, et al. (U.S. 6,449,947). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention relates generally to a muffler with an SCR catalyst for selectively reducing and purging nitrogen oxide from an exhaust gas. More specifically, claim 1 recites a particular arrangement for a plate disposed on the end of an exhaust pipe. For example, claim 1 recites that the plate contains air holes "arranged only in an area outside the diameter of the exhaust pipe". In addition, the plate has a cross section shaped like a convex tapering upstream only in an area within the diameter of the exhaust pipe. Each of these features is recited in combination with the other elements of the claim. Neither of the two references, either individually or in combination, teaches

this aspect of Applicant's claimed invention. Therefore, we believe claim 1 is patentable over these references. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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